

REMARKS

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner allowed claims 1-9, objected to claims 11-13, and rejected claims 10 and 14-23. The Examiner also indicated claims 11-13 as allowable if rewritten in independent form. By this paper, the Applicant amended claims 2, 3, 8, and 10 and canceled claims 11 and 17-23 to expedite allowance of the present application in view of the allowable subject matter. Specifically, the Applicant rewrote dependent claims 2 and 8 in independent form, including all features recited in independent claim 1. The Applicant also incorporated dependent claim 11 into independent claim 10. In view of these amendments and the following remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests allowance of all pending claims.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

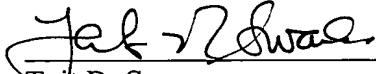
In the Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 10 and 14-23 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kimble, U.S. Patent No. 4,781,422. In view of the foregoing amendments and claim cancellations, these rejections are moot. Amended claim 10 currently recites the features recited by dependent claim 11, which the Examiner indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Therefore, independent claim 10 and dependent claims 12-16 are believed to be in condition for allowance. As noted above, the Applicant canceled the remaining claims 17-23 to expedite allowance of the present application. For these reasons, the Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner withdraw the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Conclusion

In view of the above remarks and amendments set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 17, 2003



Tait R. Swanson
Reg. No. 48,226
(281) 970-4545

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS
HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY
Intellectual Property Administration
P.O. Box 272400
Fort Collins, Colorado 80527-2400